Submotted to CC 3/12/13

James Osgood City Council Meeting 3/12/2013 comment 19661 SE 24<sup>th</sup> Way, Sammamish, Wa 98075

I want to share a few of my thoughts with you related to the opening comments you gave last week about the ECA update process. I was at every Planning Commission meeting that took place over the past year, except for maybe one. I actively participated in many meetings with comments and provided information for the Planning Commission to consider. There is a lot of relevant information to review. That is good. The planning commission took over a year in working to fully understand the issues for which they have provided you recommendations. Many of the issues are very technical. That is a concern to me. Your goal is to review their work product and make a decision within a few months. I like that, but, because of the volume of information and technicalities, it will necessitate your trusting the work and recommendations of your Planning Commission. Unless of course, you want to do all over again for yourselves, which I do not think you do. After all, you did appoint the PC members. You also developed the scope and direction of the review. It is also my understanding that your leadership approved the evaluation form that the Planning Commission used to communicate the rationale of their decisions.

What I heard last week from a few of you is that you think the Planning Commission leaned too far to provide flexibilities for property owners. It sounded as though some of you have already taken positions on some of the issues without having studied and understood the BAS and current technologies. I find this troubling. The Planning Commission has gone to great lengths to study and provide you what you asked of them; a way to provide flexibilities to property owners that will not harm the environment. Environmental protection never took a second seat to property rights in the PC decision making process. It was always their number 1 concern. The focus was always on the question, what will this do to the environment. While some of the recommendations went against the consultant's recommendations, the Planning Commission took into account new technologies, which was not a part of the scope of the consultant's report, in addition to BAS that would still protect the environment in making their recommendations.

I am confident in saying that no one in this room wants to cause damage to the environment, but many of us do want fair and just regulations based on science and technology, not personal prejudices and unfounded fears. All I ask is that you keep an open mind when it comes to evaluating these very complicated issues and the Planning Commission's recommendations. While I do not agree with all of their decisions, they did a very thorough job of evaluating very complicated issues. I urge you to trust the basis of your Planning Commission's recommendations on a whole, making tweaks and fine tuning as you see necessary.

